

unately, the fairly high price of this book may well preclude the desirable, widespread distribution which it deserves.

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26[Z].—L. BOLLIET, N. GASTINEL & P. J. LAURENT, *Algol*, Hermann, Paris, 1964, 196 p., 23 cm. Paperbound. Price 36 Fr.

This is a tutorial discussion of the programming language ALGOL 60, of a type which was badly needed a year or two ago. In contrast to the formal style of the ALGOL 60 report [1], it presents both informal explanations of the various features of the language, and illustrations of the ways in which they may be applied. The discussion of the potentialities of the *for* statement is particularly illuminating. The informal description of the syntax is supplemented by extensive use of syntactic charts, both for individual syntactic elements, and for the entire language.

In addition, the volume contains appendices on: 1. Hardware representations; 2. Examples of Input-Out procedures; 3. Compilation processes; 4. The ALGOL 60 Report [1], as revised at the 1962 Rome meeting; 5. A chart of ALGOL basic symbols. In addition, it includes a listing of Algorithms published in Communications of the Association for Computing Machinery through August 1963, and a bibliography of 137 items on ALGOL 60 and its implementation.

Unfortunately, there are many typographical errors, some of which might confuse the novice. The printing of digits in bold face, while letters are in normal type is also distracting. The paper binding appears unusually flimsy for a volume which will have extensive use.

The present availability of a variety of tutorial presentations of ALGOL 60 in English will restrict the value of this work outside of French-speaking regions. This is particularly so because of the decision to transcribe the ALGOL basic symbols into French, so that the language is incompatible with most translators. It is of interest, however, for the information which it contains on French implementation of ALGOL, and the convenient reference material in the appendices.

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1. P. NAUR (Ed.), "Revised report on the algorithmic language ALGOL 60," *Comm. ACM*, v. 6, 1963, p. 1-17.

27[Z].—D. G. BURNETT-HALL, L. A. G. DRESEL & P. A. SAMET, *Computer Programming and Autocodes*, Van Nostrand Company, Inc., Princeton, New Jersey, 1964, viii + 106 p., 24 cm. Price \$4.50.

The preface states that "this book is intended to serve as an introduction to the programming of automatic computers." The first 24 pages present such an introduction, apparently assuming that this is the reader's first contact with a stored-program digital computer.